

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows:

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amdt
3/a
9/28/01

USM1901

5 PCT/GB99/04103

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Cancel claims 1 to ~~21~~¹⁸ and add the following claims

10 ~~22. A material suitable for use in the manufacture of a~~
15 shoe stiffener comprising a layer of a stiffener composition
disposed between two layers of sheet material, the stiffener
composition including a polymeric material which is stiff at
ambient temperature and is pliable, adhesive and flowable
under pressure at an elevated temperature, at least one of
said layers of sheet material having openings therein of such
a size so when the stiffener composition is heated to said
elevated temperature, the stiffener can be readily manipulated
and positioned in a shoe upper and thereafter subjected to
pressure to cause enough of said polymeric material to flow
through the openings in the sheet material and adhere to the
adjacent shoe upper material, whereby to bond the stiffener in
the shoe.

25 ~~23. A material according to claim ~~22~~¹⁸ wherein said ele-~~
vated temperature is between 50°C and 90°C, said openings
having a size range from 0.15 mm² to 5 mm² and the melt viscos-
ity of the polymeric material measured at 100°C being in the
range of 100 PAS to 10,000 Pas.

30 ~~24. A material suitable for use in the manufacture of a~~
shoe stiffener comprising;